

Castile. But that claim had become a national quarrel, a war between England and Spain. It was undoubtedly an unwise war, but as the State chose to support it, Shakell and Haule could not plead that their prisoner was going to be used solely to further the private schemes of John of Gaunt. His surrender was demanded by the government for a national purpose. On their moral right to disobey the order, considering the provocation they had received, different opinions may be formed, but at the time of their committal to the Tower, Parliament regarded them not as patriots, but as contumacious persons.

They lay in the Tower for nearly a year, resolutely concealing from the authorities the whereabouts of their young hostage, who for his part remained faithfully hidden out of loyalty to their cause. At last they abandoned all hope of obtaining justice from the government, and broke prison with violence, knocking down the gaoler in their escape.¹ They fled straight to the refuge then open to every one demanded by the law—the Sanctuary of Holy Church—were received into Westminster Abbey, and lived there among the monks, waiting for times to change, or, as their enemies declared, planning to escape abroad and take the young Spaniard with them. On August 11, 1378, the Governor of the Tower, Sir Alan Buxhall, came to recover his prisoners in the teeth of Church privileges. He was accompanied by Lord Latimer and Sir Balph Ferrers, the claimants in the Marshal's Court for the disputed right over the Spanish hostage. The party that went to make the arrest included, therefore, both officials from the Tower in performance of their duty, and private persons from the Court acting with the knowledge and support of the Duke.² They succeeded in arresting Shakell, after some parley, without any serious scandal.³ The rest of their task was less easy. Haule was in the Abbey Church itself, attending the mass which the monks were engaged in singing. The soldiers entered the nave and laid hands on him to drag him out of Sanctuary. He, being a courageous and hot-headed man, drew his sword

¹ *Cont. Eulog.*, 342 ; *De Ecc.*, cap. vii, 142.

* *English Chron.* (Camden), 1: Wals., L 377, 379; *Chron. of London*, 76.
» Wals. i. 377, « aato.'